



NEWS RELEASE

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Indiana Department of Workforce Development Awarded Federal Grant to Improve Hoosier Workplace Literacy

INDIANAPOLIS – Today the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (IDWD) announced it has been awarded an \$879,229 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. IDWD will use these funds, in combination with other agency funds, to launch programs throughout the state focused on workplace literacy.

Recent research indicates that an estimated 960,000 to 1.2 million currently employed Hoosiers possess workplace literacy skills below those required for successful employment in a knowledge-based economy. Workplace literacy includes reading, using information, and math skills as used by the International Literacy Survey and the National Adult Literacy Survey. It also includes communicating effectively in English, thinking critically to solve problems, using technology and effectively working in teams.

“Requirements for 21st century jobs are quickly increasing across high-wage occupations,” said Indiana Department of Workforce Development Commissioner Ron Stiver. “The U.S. Department of Education estimates 60 percent of all new jobs will require skills that are possessed by only 20 percent of the current workforce. We are pleased to be awarded these funds, which will be targeted to prepare Indiana’s workforce to compete in the global economy.”

In collaboration with the Indiana Department of Education and Adult Education Division, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development was awarded the grant through a grant application process. Announcements on the specific programs funded by this grant will be forthcoming.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana’s 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on DWD and its programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.